

Join us on the second Thursday of every month for a series of "brown bag" seminars sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy. Each seminar is held at NREL's Washington offices with a video-conference link to Golden, Colorado. Topics focus on new and innovative renewable energy and energy analysis strategies, models, and technologies.



Energy Analysis Seminar Series

A "brown bag" analytical seminar series

Economic Impacts of Wind Power in Kittitas County, Washington

Stephen Grover
ECONorthwest
Thursday, December 12, 2002
Noon–1 p.m.

Want to learn more about the future impacts of wind power? This presentation addresses the potential economic benefits of a proposed wind power facility located in central Washington State (Kittitas County). The wind farm would involve the building and operation of 265 wind turbines with the potential to generate about 390 MW of electricity. This study was commissioned by a local economic development group to measure the potential economic impacts of the wind farm, including 1) the effect on the local economy from the wind farm construction and operation, 2) the potential tax revenues to Kittitas County, and 3) the likely effect that views of the wind turbines will have on residential property values. This study used an input-output model to estimate the economic impacts to the county and to predict additional tax revenues resulting from the wind farm. The group also surveyed tax assessors from other areas with wind farms to determine the potential impacts on property values.

Stephen Grover, Ph.D., is a project manager and senior economist at ECONorthwest in Portland, Oregon, where he heads that firm's energy practice. Grover has more than 10 years experience researching energy and environmental issues. Prior to joining ECONorthwest, he worked for the energy evaluation firm Quantum Consulting in Berkeley, California, and for Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington. Grover specializes in analyzing energy markets and customer demand for energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies. He is currently involved in energy efficiency projects for the California PUC, the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, and the State of Oregon through the Energy Trust of Oregon. He also has worked on evaluations for some of the largest residential and commercial DSM programs in the country including programs offered by Florida Power and Light and Pacific Gas and Electric. Grover has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



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